

STATE ED BOARD NAMES ROGER BREED OF ELKHORN TO COMMISSIONER'S POST, WILL NEGOTIATE CONTRACT

The State Board of Education announced today that it will begin contract negotiations with Roger Breed, who is currently superintendent of Elkhorn Public Schools, to become Nebraska's Commissioner of Education.

Breed has experience working with both small and large school districts. Several State Board members said that experience was important for the next Commissioner to have.

The State Board of Education voted unanimously in favor of Breed after interviewing four finalists for the post that has been vacant since July. The finalists also met with Gov. Dave Heineman, members of the Legislature's Education Committee and education partners as well as Nebraska Department of Education staff during the day. After talking to representatives of those individuals and groups, the State Board of Education met in executive session to consider the appointment.

State Board President Fred Meyer said all finalists were well-qualified as education leaders and would have served Nebraska schools well.

"We are pleased to announce that we have asked Roger to take this key leadership role and are confident that his long-term tenure as a Nebraska school superintendent is evidence of the leadership skills and experience needed to succeed in this position. Nebraska public education is at a critical point in its history. Members of the State Board of Education have the highest confidence in Dr. Breed's ability to face these challenges and to lead our schools. His communication skills are strong and his experience working with the Governor and Legislature on education issues will be an asset to all public and private school students."